

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action mailed July 9, 2003. Claims 1-30 were examined in the Office Action. Claims 24-30 were allowed and claims 1-23 were rejected. Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 14, and 15 have been amended. No claims have been canceled. Reconsideration of claims 1-23 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Komai (JP 2-166678 A, hereinafter "Komai").

The preamble of claim 1 has been amended to be consistent with the elements in the body of the claim.

Claim 1 was rejected in the same manner as in the first office action, but the examiner added an explanation as his interpretation of "proximate end" and asserted that Applicants had not recited specific structure in the specification to support its argument that the arm circuit positioned at the proximate end of the actuator arm is at the end of the arm adjacent the head gimbal assembly. The following quotes and references to the drawings clearly support Applicants definition of proximate end and that the arm circuit is adjacent the head gimbal assembly support portion of the arm.

"Unlike prior approaches, the arm circuit 132 is positioned at the proximate end 208 of the actuator arm 116,...." (Page 7, lines 23-24, FIGS. 4 and 5)

"The actuator arm (such as 116) has a top surface (such as 218) and a bottom surface (such as 216), and includes a head gimbal assembly support portion (such as 206) located at a proximate end (such as 208) of the actuator arm (such as 116)." (Page 9, lines 2-5, FIGS. 4 and 5).

Gimbal assembly support portion 206 and proximate end 208 is shown clearly in FIGS. 4 and 5 as the end of the actuator arm adjacent the head gimbal assembly. As pointed out in the response to the first office action, the coil connector circuit in the Komai reference is on the coil side of the pivot hub and is not located at the end of the actuator arm for supporting the head gimbal assembly as clearly defined in claim 1 and supported in the specification and drawings.

As recited in claim 1, the combination -- of an actuator arm with top and bottom surfaces with an alignment pin from one of the surfaces and having a head gimbal assembly support portion at the proximate end of the actuator arm plus an arm circuit fastened on one of the surfaces receiving the alignment pin to position the circuit at the proximate end -- is not a combination described in Komai. Claim 1 should be allowed.

Claims 2, 6 and 7 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed for the same reasons as discussed above for claim 1.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komai. Claims 3, 8, 12, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komai in view of Forbord.

Forbord shows the arm circuit attached to the side of the actuator assembly. Forbord does not fill in any of the deficiencies of the Komai reference relative to claim 1. As claims 3, 8, 10 - 13 are dependent from claim 1, these claims should be allowed for the same reasons as discussed above for claim 1.

Claims 15 and 17-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komai in view of Forbord.

Claim 15 has been amended to locate the arm circuit alignment pins at the proximate end of the actuator arm. Therefore, the arm circuit being positioned by the alignment pins will thus be located at the proximate end of the actuator arm. Accordingly, claim 15 is directed to an arm circuit and a gimbal circuit positioned on the top surface and at the proximate end of the actuator arm with the arm circuit positioned by the alignment pins. As discussed above for claim 1, the proximate end is clearly defined in the specification as the end adjacent the head gimbal assembly. Neither Komai or Forbord alone teach this combination of elements, nor do they when taken together suggest the claimed combination. Komai is discussed above and teaches a coil connector circuit mounted at the coil; Forbord teaches a circuit mounted on the side of the actuator arm assembly in the conventional manner. Accordingly, claim 15 should be allowed.

Claims 17-23 depend from claim 15 and should be allowed for the same reasons as discussed above for claim 15.

Claims 4, 5, 9, 14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komai in view of Forbord et al. as applied to claims 3, 8, 12 and 15, and further in view of Marazzo (USPN 5,103,359, hereinafter "Marazzo").

As amended Claims 4, 5, 9, 14, and 16 add to claims 1 and 15, respectively, the claim element where the gimbal circuit has an aperture to receive a gimbal circuit alignment pin on the top or bottom surface of the actuator arm to position the gimbal circuit at the proximate end of the actuator arm. This reflects similar structure to that claimed for the arm circuit in claims 1 and 15. As discussed above this structure is not shown in Komai or Forbord. Marazzo is similar to Forbord in that it has circuits mounted on the side rather than the top and bottom surfaces of the actuator assembly. Claims 4, 5, 9, 14 and 16 should be allowed either because they depend from claims 1 and 15 which should be allowed, or they should be allowed in their own right for the added combination of arm circuit and gimbal circuit mounted on top or bottom surface and positioned by alignment pins at the proximate end of the actuator arm.

Conclusion

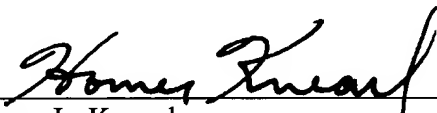
As originally filed, the present application included 30 claims, 3 of which were independent. As amended, the present application now includes 30 claims, 3 of which are independent. It is believed that no further fees are due with this Response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment with respect to this patent application to deposit account number 13-2725.

As all claims now in the application are in condition for allowance, and further as the present amendments are similar to language already in the same claim or other claims and raise no new issues, Applicants request the application be allowed and pass to issuance as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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